

United States Air Force

HQ Air University Public Affairs (AU/PA)
55 LeMay Plaza, Maxwell AFB AL 36112-6334
TEL NO. (334) 953-2825, FAX 953-3379, DSN 493-2825

FACT SHEET

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Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps

The Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) is the largest and oldest source of commissioned officers for the Air Force. Air Force ROTC's mission simply stated is to "Produce leaders for the Air Force." The Senior ROTC program resides on 144 college campuses around the nation and in Puerto Rico. Air Force ROTC's headquarters is at Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, AL.

The Air Force Senior ROTC Program is designed to recruit, educate and commission officer candidates through college campus programs based on Air Force requirements. Students from schools near Air Force ROTC host institutions can attend classes through more than 900 separate cross-town enrollment programs or consortium agreements.

History

ROTC was established with passage of the National Defense Act of 1916. The first Air ROTC units were established between 1920 and 1923 at the University of California at Berkeley, Georgia Institute of Technology, the University of Illinois, the University of Washington, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College.

After World War II, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, chief of staff of the War Department, signed General Order No. 124, establishing Air ROTC units at 77 colleges and universities throughout the nation. A new two-year Senior Program and scholarships were

authorized by the ROTC Vitalization Act of 1964.

An experimental program to commission women through Air

Force ROTC was first conducted from 1956 to 1960. Women were again enrolled in the Senior Program, starting in 1969. Eligible Air Force enlisted men and women pursuing a college degree who are interested in becoming commissioned officers are given that opportunity through competition in the Air Force ROTC Airman Scholarship and Commissioning Program, established in 1973

In 1978, Air Training Command, with headquarters at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, assumed responsibility for Air Force ROTC programs.

On July 1, 1993, Air Training Command merged with Air University to form Air Education and Training Command. Air University became a direct reporting unit under Air Education and Training Command and Air Force ROTC realigned under Air University.

In February 1997, in an effort to reduce duplication of effort and to streamline administrative and reporting procedures within Air University, Air Force ROTC and Officer Training School merged under the newly



created umbrella organization, Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools. This restructuring (1) placed oversight for three-quarters of Air Force officer production under one command, the AFOATS commander, a brigadier general; and (2) facilitated the sharing of manpower and expertise with minimum affect on the day-to-day operations of either organization.

In August 2000, Junior ROTC was made the third command under the AFOATS umbrella.

Senior ROTC Program

There are primarily three routes to an Air Force commission for college students through Air Force Senior ROTC – the four-year program, the two-year program, and the one-year program for critical-need majors. Students attend Air Force ROTC classes along with other college courses.

Students in the Senior ROTC Program normally receive elective academic credit. At each host institution, ROTC has the status of an academic department. Instructors are active duty Air Force officers; most have at least a master's degree and are usually accorded the academic rank of assistant professor. The unit commander has an academic rank of professor.

Recent enrollments in the college programs have ranged from a high of 23,605 in 1986 to a low of 10,231 in 1993. In March 2005, over 13,800 cadets were enrolled in the AFROTC program. After successfully completing all requirements, the cadets are commissioned as Air Force officers with a four-year active duty service commitment. Pilots, navigators and air battle managers have longer commitments upon completion of specialized training.

Scholarships vary in size and length, and can cover all or part of tuition and fees plus a book allowance. They also include a monthly nontaxable stipend allowance that increases as the cadet progresses through the program. The maximum age for commissioning is 35 while the maximum scholarship age is 30.

Four-Year Program

The first two years of the Air Force ROTC four-year program, the General Military Course, consist of one hour of classroom work and two hours of leadership laboratory each week. Upon completion of General Military Course requirements, cadets who wish to compete for entry into the last two years of the program, the Professional Officer Course, must do so under the requirements of the Professional Officer Course selection system. This system uses qualitative factors, such as grade-point average, unit commander evaluation, aptitude test scores and physical fitness test scores to determine a student's officer potential. After selection, students must successfully complete a four-week summer field training unit at an assigned Air Force base before entering the Professional Officer Course. Cadets enrolled in the course attend class three hours a week and participate in a weekly leadership laboratory lasting two hours.

In the Professional Officer Course, cadets apply what they have learned in the General Military Course and at field training units. Professional Officer Course cadets conduct the leadership laboratories and manage the unit's cadet corps. Each unit has a cadet corps based on the Air Force organizational pattern of flight, squadron, group, and wing. Professional Officer Course classes are small, with emphasis on group discussions and cadet presentations. Classroom topics include leadership, communication skills and national defense policy. Once enrolled in the Professional Officer Course, all cadets are enlisted in the Air Force Reserve and assigned to the Obligated Reserve Section. This entitles them to a monthly nontaxable subsistence allowance.

Two-Year Program

The Air Force ROTC two-year program and the last two years of the four-year program are the same at the Professional Officer Course level, except for the entry procedure. Entrance into the Professional Officer Course is highly competitive and four-year applicants must be selected through the selection system described above. Two-year applicants must successfully complete an extended field training unit. The

additional time in field training for the two-year applicants prepares them for entry into the Professional Officer Course. Two-year applicants are not committed to the Air Force until they return to school in the fall and make a decision to enlist through Air Force ROTC.

One-Year Program

The One-Year Program is very limited and designed to meet Air Force production shortfalls in certain fields. Those selected for the one-year program attend an extended Air Force ROTC Field Training unit during the summer. After contracting, these cadets also receive a monthly non-taxable subsistence allowance during the academic year. This program will only be used in certain situations and may not be available at all times.

Field Training

Field Training is, in most cases, a cadet's first exposure to a working Air Force environment and the Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF) concept. The program develops military leadership and discipline, and provides Air Force officer orientation and motivation. At the same time, the Air Force can evaluate each cadet's potential as an officer.

Field training includes aircraft and aircrew orientation, Air Force professional development orientation, marksmanship training, officer training, physical fitness, and AEF orientation.

Uniforms, lodging, and meals are provided at no cost to the cadet, who travels at Air Force expense to and from the individual's home of record or school. Additionally, cadets receive pay of about \$785 for the 28-day field training unit and about \$1035 for the 37-day field training unit.

Special Programs

There are many Air Force ROTC optional programs that provide cadets with specialized off-campus learning experiences. These include professional development training, base visits, and introductory flight training for senior cadets categorized as pilot or navigator candidates.

Professional Development Training (PDT)

The Professional Development Training Program provides cadets with specialized and individual professional development. The learning experience is similar to an intern program. Cadets are placed at Air Force bases to acquaint them with life, duties and responsibilities of Air Force personnel. This is a voluntary program that provides an important transition for a cadet between training conducted at field training, and commissioning as a second lieutenant.

Cadets are assigned to Air Force bases normally for two or three weeks. Cadets receive about \$25 a day, meals and lodging on base while participating in the program. The cadets are reimbursed for travel expenses to and from the base. Limited opportunities are also available in parachuting, glider and survival training courses.

Base Visits

Base visits give cadets a firsthand look at operational Air Force bases. They are normally conducted during the academic year. An Air Force ROTC instructor accompanies each visit to add personal knowledge of the Air Force mission to the cadets' base-visit experience. This program develops an appreciation of the Air Force professional environment.

Scholarships

Current emphasis in the Air Force ROTC College Scholarship Program is to award scholarships to candidates pursuing undergraduate engineering or other scientific and technical disciplines. More than half of Air Force ROTC scholarships are awarded to students in these disciplines. However, students in every degree program enjoy scholarship opportunities, as the Air Force seeks to engage students who excel both academically and militarily.

Scholarships are awarded in increments of four, three, and two years. Air Force ROTC offers several types of scholarships. Type 1 covers full tuition and most required fees. Type 2 covers tuition and fees but is capped at

\$15,000 annually. Type 3 pays up to \$9,000 annually and can be used at any university that offers AFROTC. Type 7 scholarships of the College Scholarship Program (CSP) are awards designated specifically for lower cost, normally in-state tuition-level institutions. All types of awards provide an allowance for books, most required fees and a monthly nontaxable stipend.

All scholarship cadets are required to meet certain academic, military, and physical fitness standards to earn and maintain scholarship benefits. Also, scholarship recipients must be younger than 31 as of December 31 of the calendar year during which commissioning is scheduled.

Extracurricular Activities

Air Force ROTC cadets participate in a variety of extracurricular activities. Several units have special drill teams, color guards, and honor guards. Many students enrolled in Air Force ROTC also participate in unit-sponsored intramural sports and social functions.

Enrollment Criteria

The first two years of the Air Force ROTC college program, the General Military Course, are open to all students who are at least 14 years old. Second-year scholarship cadets and all cadets entering the last two years of the college program -- the Professional Officer Course -- must be at least 17. These contract cadets must meet Air Force ROTC and Department of Defense eligibility standards ranging from physical fitness to U.S. citizenship.

Faculty

The teaching staff of Air Force ROTC units is composed of well-educated, experienced Air Force officers. Selection is determined by professional experience, academic background, and qualifications as instructors. Officers in the grades of first lieutenant through colonel, with five or more years remaining before retirement, are eligible. They normally must have a master's degree, and be a regular or career reserve officer. Officers complete

faculty development at Maxwell AFB, Ala., to enhance their teaching skills and learn more about their jobs before reporting for their teaching assignments.

Active Duty Service Commitments

Cadets in the Professional Officer Course and second-year scholarship cadets are contract cadets who agree to accept a commission as a second lieutenant in the Air Force after completing all Air Force ROTC and academic degree requirements. Most cadets incur a four-year, active-duty commitment. Pilots incur a ten-year active duty service commitment after completing Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training. Navigators incur a six-year commitment after completing Specialized Undergraduate Navigator Training. Air Battle Managers also incur a six-year commitment after completing Undergraduate Battle Manager and Follow-on Training.

Medical Professions

Nursing graduates agree to accept a commission in the Air Force Nurse Corps and serve four years on active duty after successfully completing their licensing examination. Cadet premedical scholarship recipients who are accepted to medical school within one year of graduating may be sponsored in their pursuit of medical degrees.

Legal Professions

Both first-year and second-year law students can apply for ROTC scholarships. Students complete either a one-year or two-year ROTC program while attending law school. Additionally, second-year law students can pursue an Air Force commission through Air Force ROTC's graduate law program. This program guarantees judge advocate duty after a student completes all Air Force ROTC, law school, and bar requirements. After graduating from an American Bar Association-accredited law school, the student must be admitted to practice law before the highest state court of any state or a federal court. The new lawyer is then commissioned into the Air Force in the grade determined by the laws and

directives in effect at the time of call to active duty.

Airman Commissioning Opportunities

Air Force ROTC has four programs in which Air Force enlisted personnel may pursue a commission. Scholarships for Outstanding Airmen to ROTC (SOAR) allows commanders to recognize outstanding airmen by nominating them for an Air Force ROTC scholarship in any major. The Airman Scholarship and Commissioning Program (ASCP) lets airmen compete for Air Force ROTC scholarships at HQ AFROTC while coordinating their application package with the Air Force ROTC unit they are interested in attending. Although any major may be selected, technical and nursing are usually considered more favorably. Both scholarship programs are available in two- to four-year lengths. To be eligible for a scholarship, airmen must be working on their first bachelor's degree and cannot exceed age limits as prescribed by public law.

The Professional Officer Course Early Release Program (POC-ERP) is available to airmen who may not be eligible or competitive for a scholarship due to age, degree program or grade point average. Individuals compete for allocations at HQ AFROTC while coordinating their application package with the Air Force ROTC unit they are interested in attending. These three Air Force ROTC programs require the selected airmen to leave active duty to complete their degree and Air Force requirements necessary to earn a commission.

Air Force ROTC also manages the Airmen Education and Commissioning Program (AECPP). This program allows selected airmen to remain on active duty while completing degree requirements to earn their commission through AFROTC. Selected airmen move to an Air Force-affiliated ROTC unit to finish their bachelor's degree.

More information about these programs can be obtained from base education offices, an Air Force ROTC unit, or log on to <http://www.afroats.af.mil/AFROTC/enlistedcommissioning>.

In Summary

The Air Force is seeking talented and motivated high school and college students with solid character and demonstrated leadership potential. There are a wide variety of scholarship opportunities beginning the senior year of high school. Due to the technical requirements of today's Air Force more scholarships are available to students in technical majors. A list of these technical majors is available on the afrotc.com website. There are also scholarship opportunities for non-technical majors. In the AFROTC program, cadets are students first and spend an average of four to six contact hours weekly as freshmen/sophomores. As juniors and seniors, cadets spend six to ten hours of contact time weekly as they work to build and refine their leadership skills. Successful completion of a four-year accredited degree program and AFROTC leads to a commission as a second lieutenant in the best Air Force in the world. If you have ever considered serving your country in any capacity and joining a world class winning team, contact AFROTC for more information.

For More Information

For more information about Air Force ROTC programs and scholarship applications, write to Air Force ROTC, Recruiting Branch, 551 East Maxwell Boulevard, Maxwell AFB, AL, 36112-6106. You can also call toll-free, 1-866-4AFROTC or go to <http://www.afrotc.com>.

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